

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

March 11, 1998

Topics:

- Corrective Action Plan
- Membership/Leadership
- Committee Organization/Priorities for 1998
- Review of Past Recommendations
- Conflict of Interest

Attendees:

CAB members:	John Applegate
	Jim Bierer
	Lisa Crawford
	Pam Dunn
	Doug Sarno
	Bob Tabor
	Gene Willeke
DOE:	Jack Craig
	Gary Stegner
Fluor Daniel Fernald:	Tisha Patton

Results:

- Conflict of interest statement
- Procedure for electing a new chair
- Jack Craig to discuss main points of Corrective Action Plan at March 14th meeting
- Steering Committee to be involved in RFP process for facilitator bids
- New committee structure and issues to be discussed at March 14th meeting
- Annual review of past recommendations

Meeting Summary:

Corrective Action Plan

Jack Craig began the meeting with a discussion of the Corrective Action Plan that was created in response to the Type B Investigation. The plan is rather detailed and he preferred to discuss procurement and quality assurance in terms of the big picture. Gene Willeke thought it would be helpful for the CAB to know exactly who is involved in the creation of the plan. Jack said that the plan examined three or four major areas including quality assurance and organizational changes. John Applegate suggested that Jack use the recommendations letter that the CAB had written as a guide for discussion on the plan. Doug Sarno said that the letter actually addressed specific questions in several key categories, such as the previous leaks and procurement issues. After reviewing the letter, Jack thought that many of the specific questions could be answered in the Type B Investigation Report. Doug agreed but felt that the Type B Investigation Report was

inadequate because it did not explain how the situation had come to exist and how such a relationship had been developed with Nevada that allowed the leaks to continue. Jack stated that the bottom line is that bad decisions had been made. Doug thought that the systems in place may have allowed people to make the wrong decisions. Jack agreed that the right people were not always involved in making the decisions because a good system was not in place. John asked Jack to boil down the letter to six or seven main topics and discuss those topics at the March 14th meeting.

Gene asked why Nevada did not raise more of a flag during the previous leaks. Doug answered that the waste attainment criteria at Nevada has nothing to do with the box. Gene then pointed out that the transportation procedures for noting the leak had worked out well. Doug was concerned, however, that previous leaks did not raise flags at Fernald. Jack said that after the initial leaks Fernald concentrated its efforts on the absorbent and not on the box; the root cause analysis of the initial leaks did not work. Doug then asked about the current political fallout from the leaks. Jack said that DOE-Nevada was anxious for Fernald to start shipping again. DOE-Nevada is working with the local government to address their concerns. Shipping should resume at the end of April.

Membership/Leadership

John announced that he has accepted a job at Indiana University, so under the bylaws he must resign as Chair. He expressed the need to have a logical transition from Vice Chair to Chair. The committee, thus, needs to do two things: (1) develop a process for naming a Chair and Vice Chair, and (2) move forward on naming Jim as Chair so that continuity of leadership is maintained. John also wanted the CAB to present a strong continuing presence at the Low-Level Waste Forum in Nevada. This Forum has been postponed until sometime in May. After some discussion, the committee agreed that the procedure for selecting a Chair and Vice Chair would be for the Steering Committee to make a recommendation to the full Board, and then for the Board to make a recommendation to DOE. The committee agreed to recommend that Jim Bierer be named chair at the March 14th meeting. The selection of vice chair would be postponed until later.

Pam Dunn then brought up the issue of Doug Sarno's contract. She is concerned that issuing a RFP could result in someone else receiving the contract. This person would not have the experience needed and the CAB would suffer. Jack explained that every contract reaches a point where it must be put out for a bid again; the RFP can be made to account for things like continuity and experience. Pam suggested that members of the CAB once again be involved in writing and selecting the contractor for the RFP. Gary Stegner said he would try to make this happen. Pam would also like to see the contract made into a five year contract. John suggested that the Steering Committee be involved in developing the RFP and evaluating bids.

Committee Organization/1998 Priorities

John suggested that the new committee structure be presented at the March 14th meeting and that members of the CAB be asked if they are happy with their committees. Doug explained that the new structure assigned each person to only one committee, but if

they want to join another, that would be fine.

John also suggested that the full Board discuss the issues for each committee during the March 14th meeting.

Review of Past Recommendation

John wanted the full Board to discuss the past recommendations during the March 14th meeting. He suggested that they discuss the 1995 recommendations in some detail and then go through a summary of the recommendations made since then.

Conflict of Interest

John presented a draft of a conflict of interest statement to the committee. Gene expressed some concern that the statement was worded too strongly, although he was in agreement with the intent. Doug thought it was good for the CAB to make a strong statement on this issue. John explained that the intent was only to prevent visits to non-government funded projects, but did not exclude gathering information or viewing video tapes. John also stated that if a special case arose, the CAB could discuss the problem in a public meeting.

Doug then announced that the lease was not going to be renewed on the Jamtek Building thus the CAB would need to find another location to hold committee meetings. Gary suggested they look into using the PEIC. Jack then announced that the head of the Nevada CAB would be in Fernald on Tuesday, March 17, and would like to meet with CAB members from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.